

- (ii) Holding workshops/seminars to cope with the challenges;
- (iii) Creation of help lines;
- (iv) Modifications of the examination scheme so that students should not feel over-stressed during examinations;
- (v) Monitoring of performance of students during semester;
- (vi) Setting up of mechanisms so that the families are well informed about the performance of students; and
- (vii) Conducting of seminars on breathing exercises, yoga and meditation, etc.

Special education zones

588. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are setting up special education zones, and watch India's knowledge sharpen;
- (b) if so, the modalities worked out so far; and
- (c) the role of States and private institutions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Retirement age of teachers

589. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- ~~(a)~~ whether it is a fact that Government have referred the proposal of retirement age of teacher to a Group of Ministers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any discussion had been held by GoM in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) A proposal for enhancing the retirement age of teachers in centrally funded institutions under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, from 62 years to 65 years is presently under consideration of the Government.

Fee hike in higher education

590. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI KAMALAKHTAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under active consideration of Government to hike fees for higher studies;

(b) if so, the extent to which the fees are expected to be hiked and on which fields;

(c) how far such a hike in fees shall have adverse effect on the education of children of middle class population; and

(d) how far the minority community students shall be deprived of the education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Crisis in higher education

591. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several recent studies have revealed that India is facing a deepening crisis in higher education with declining standards and a poor governance;